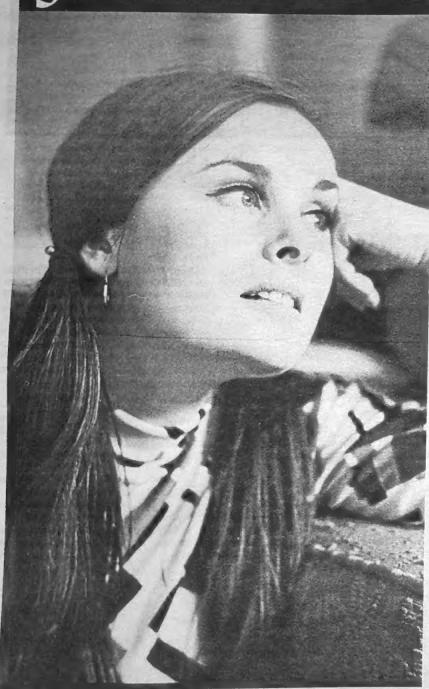
## JEANNE RAINER Q&A



Jeanne Rainer

orgeous brunette Jeanne Rejaunier (known onscreen as Jeanne Rainer) is remembered syndicated television commercial for Coca-Cola where she utters the rick Agency asked me to star in this lowword "delicious." But being a spokesmodel for such an iconic brand was only the beginning of her onscreen achievements. She had recently finished her undergraduate studies at Vassar College and was attending the University of California, Los more experienced. Angeles, when she-in an abrupt changestarted doing commercials. Her starring roles in The Naked Road (1959) and The in The Touch of Flesh and left New York Touch of Flesh (1960) won critical acclaim and led to appearances on The Jackie Gleason Show, McHale's Navy, Mister Ed, Combat!, Dr. Kildare, Run for Your Life, Burke's Law, The Dating Game, and Border Patrol. [1961] was one that I was proud of. It sold It was after her last film, I Sailed to Tahiti with an All Girl Crew (1969), that she it from theaters after authorities censored started writing novels. Her first was The Beauty Trap, which became a bestseller. She has since continued to write several these complex roles? other novels, while penning articles with magazines like Life, Playboy and National Geographic, As Jeanne Rejaunier, she recently directed a documentary titled The Spirit of '56 and has various other projects in the works.

who attended one of the greatest colleges in the country. What on earth prompted you to pursue acting?

Jeanne Rainer: It happened while I was in college. I initially wanted to be a columnist, but one of my professors discouraged it saying that I wouldn't get far-her exact words were that there were "a lot of fish in a small pond"—and suggested that Italy and signed with him because he said I become a playwright instead. I agreed that he had plans to turn me into a star. and enrolled in some drama courses, and He didn't use me for anything, though, before I knew it, I was doing a screen test and I was idle for several months. It was with Efrem Zimbalist Jr., at Warner Bros.

surname?

of Phuong in The Quiet American [1958]. Joseph Mankiewicz, who directed the film, made it seem like I was guaranteed the role in several episodes of Dr. Kildare, among as long as I changed my name to Rainer other things. because Rejaunier was difficult to pronounce. I changed it, which I later regret- but didn't get?

ted partly because I wasn't cast anyway SC: How were you cast in The Naked

Jeanne Rainer: I was dining with by audiences for her nationally some friends at the Copacabana when a woman named Beverly with the Dale Garbudget film. It was edgy for its era, but didn't get much fanfare. He [Dale] was a marvelous agent, though, and helped me get an audition for Where the Boys Are [1960], but the director wanted someone

SC: Where did you go from there?

Jeanne Rainer: I finished a starring role to do some work in Italy. I was fluent in Italian, French, and Spanish and was able to use that to get steady work in films and commercials overseas. I Love, You Love a lot of tickets before the producers pulled several racy scenes.

SC: How did you prepare for some of

Jeanne Rainer: I'd learn as I progressed. I wanted to study with Lee Strasberg because he was renowned in the industry and helped create stars like Marilyn Monroe. but whenever I telephoned his office, the secretary would say that there weren't any Samuel Claesson: You were an academic openings. A friend suggested that I study with a great actor named Frank Corsaro. and he helped me perfect my technique. I later studied acting with Martin Landau and singing with Burt Knapp.

> SC: I read that you were under contract with the infamous womanizer Martin Ransohoff.

Jeanne Rainer: Yes. I returned from nice to get paid while doing nothing, but SC: Whose idea was it to change your it slowed my career. He promised me the starring role in The Wheeler Dealers [1963], Jeanne Rainer: I auditioned for the role but gave it to Lee Remick instead. I got out of the contract and spent a few years with the William Morris Agency, who put me

SC: Was there a role that you pursued,



The Touch of Flesh (1960).



The Naked Road (1959)

Jeanne Rainer: I did several auditions for The Big Valley. I really wanted that, but they cast Linda Evans instead. I never figured out why, but she was several years younger than me which could've been a by me at some of Hollywood's nightclubs factor. I was in my 30s at that point. The and parties. As far as acting goes, I don't Sandpiper [1965] was one of several films have an agent and I live in Florida so it'dbe that I was considered for, but for one reason or another wasn't cast.



fered, but rejected?

Jeanne Rainer: That's a sad story. I was offered the starring role in The Blob [1958], but I turned them down and did summer stock instead. I still kick myself for doing that and I can't explain why I did it. I didn't think it'd be the cult classic it became.

SC: You've written several novels since your retirement from acting and you've even delved into filmmaking.

Jeanne Rainer: I just finished a novel that I'll be publishing this year, and I have another that I'm writing. I recommend to readers who want a lot of insider stuff read Hollywood Sauna Confidential. It's an in-depth account of events witnessed difficult to do auditions. If anyone reaches out to me and wants to cast me in some-SC: How about a role that you were of thing, I'd certainly consider it.

